Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

selecting a registration resource at a first location, wherein the registration resource is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service resource to replace the registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the registration resource is usable for the service;

assigning the registration resource to a customer at a second location; and

releasing the registration resource at the second location independently of the first location.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the first location causing the assigning of the registration resource at the second location.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

releasing the registration resource in response to assignment of [[a]] the service resource to the customer.

5. (currently amended) A method comprising:

at a first location, selecting a first registration MSISDN number from a set, wherein the first registration MSISDN number is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service MSISDN number to replace the first registration MSISDN number, and wherein the service MSISDN number but not the first registration MSISDN number is usable for the service;

communicating the first registration MSISDN number to a second location;

communicating a first request to the second location to assign the first registration MSISDN to a customer;

receiving an error from the second location indicating that the assignment failed;

at the first location, selecting a second registration MSISDN number from the set, wherein the second registration MSISDN number is potentially usable to register for the service and obtain the service MSISDN number to replace the second registration MSISDN number, and

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wherein the service MSISDN number but not the second registration MSISDN number is usable for the service;

communicating the second registration MSISDN number to the second location; and

communicating a second request to the second location to assign the second registration MSISDN to the customer.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein selecting the first and second registration MSISDN numbers further comprises:

selecting the first and second registration MSISDN numbers using one of a random and pseudo-random selection process.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

the second location assigning the second registration MSISDN number to the customer; and

the second location releasing the assignment of the second registration MSISDN number independently of the first location.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

communicating service options to the customer;

the second location releasing the assignment of the second registration MSISDN number upon a selection of a service plan by the customer; and

the second location assigning [[a]] the service MSISDN number to the customer.

9. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving at a second location a first registration resource selected at a first location, wherein the first registration resource is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service resource to replace the first registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the first registration resource is usable for the service;

receiving at the second location a request to assign the first registration resource to a customer;

determining at the second location that the first registration resource is already assigned to another customer;

returning to the first location an error;

receiving at the second location a second registration resource selected at the first location, wherein the second registration resource is potentially usable to register for the service and obtain the service resource to replace the second registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the second registration resource is usable for the service;

receiving at the second location a request to assign the second registration resource to the customer;

determining at the second location that the second registration resource is not already assigned to another customer; and

assigning the second registration resource to the customer.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

receiving at the second location an indication that the customer has selected a service plan;

assigning [[a]] the service resource to the customer; and

releasing the assignment of the second registration resource independently of the first location.

11. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a provisioning system comprising a set of registration resources;

a registry system comprising a customer registry and a list of assigned and otherwise unavailable registration resources;

wherein:

_____the provisioning system selects a registration resource independently of the registry system, wherein the registration resource is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service resource to replace the registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the registration resource is usable for the service;

_____the registry system assigns the registration resource to a customer in response to a request from the provisioning system, provided that the registration resource is not identified in the list of assigned and otherwise unavailable registration resources[[,]]; and

_____the registry system releases the registration resource independently of the provisioning system upon receiving an indication that the customer selected a service plan.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, the registry further comprising:
an association of a customer number and the registration resource.

13. (currently amended) An article comprising[[:]] a machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a data processing device, result in:
receiving at a second location a first registration resource selected at a first location, wherein the first registration resource is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service resource to replace the first registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the first registration resource is usable for the service;
receiving at the second location a request to assign the first registration resource to a customer;
determining at the second location that the first registration resource is already assigned to another customer;
returning to the first location an error;
receiving at the second location a second registration resource selected at the first location, wherein the second registration resource is potentially usable to register for the service and obtain the service resource to replace the second registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the second registration resource is usable for the service;
receiving at the second location a request to assign the second registration resource to the customer;
determining at the second location that the second registration resource is not already assigned to another customer; and
assigning the second registration resource to the customer.

14. (currently amended) The article of claim 13 ~~comprising~~ wherein the instructions ~~which~~, when executed by the data processing device, further result in:

receiving at the second location an indication that the customer has selected a service plan;

assigning [[a]] the service resource to the customer; and

releasing the assignment of the second registration resource independently of the first location.

15. – 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, result in:

_____receiving at a second location a first registration resource selected at a first location, wherein the first registration resource is potentially usable to register for a service and obtain a service resource to replace the first registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the first registration resource is usable for the service;

_____receiving at the second location a request to assign the first registration resource to a customer;

_____determining at the second location that the first registration resource is already assigned to another customer;

_____returning to the first location an error;

_____receiving at the second location a second registration resource selected at the first location, wherein the second registration resource is potentially usable to register for the service and obtain the service resource to replace the second registration resource, and wherein the service resource but not the second registration resource is usable for the service;

_____receiving at the second location a request to assign the second registration resource to the customer;

_____determining at the second location that the second registration resource is not already assigned to another customer; and

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_____assigning the second registration resource to the customer.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21 ~~further comprising~~ wherein the instructions ~~which~~, when executed by the processor, further result in:

receiving at the second location an indication that the customer has selected a service plan;

assigning [[a]] the service resource to the customer; and

releasing the assignment of the second registration resource independently of the first location.

23. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the registration resource and the service resource are first and second MSISDN numbers, respectively.

24. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the first registration resource is a first MSISDN number, the second registration resource is a second MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number, and the service resource is a third MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number and the second MSISDN number.

25. (new) The system of claim 11 wherein the registration resource and the service resource are first and second MSISDN numbers, respectively.

26. (new) The article of claim 13 wherein the first registration resource is a first MSISDN number, the second registration resource is a second MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number, and the service resource is a third MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number and the second MSISDN number.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first registration resource is a first MSISDN number, the second registration resource is a second MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number, and the service resource is a third MSISDN number different than the first MSISDN number and the second MSISDN number.